

In one night,
(September 21 to 22)
between **DA NANG**
and **NHA TRANG**

THE P.L.A.F. ATTACKED 120 TARGETS

among them 5 cities and provincial capitals, 12 urban centres and district towns and 7 airfields including those of Da Nang, Nuoc Man, Chu Lai and Nha Trang

- 9 enemy battalions and 9 companies wiped out or decimated throughout South Viet Nam in 9 days (including 5 battalions and 6 companies in 6 days in the Tay Ninh sector).
- A battalion of Thai mercenaries completely destroyed East of Saigon.
- Nha Be oil complex at the gates of Saigon again pounded.

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Up to September 25, 1968

**3,188 U.S. aircraft were
downed in North Viet Nam**

A Victor's Smile



THIS is the picture of Vo Thi Thang, 23, a former student of the Gia Long Secondary School (Saigon) who on July 27, 1968 put to death the tyrannical puppet district chief of Phu Lam. Sentenced by a U.S.-Saigon court to 30 years' hard labour, she challenged the verdict with a calm, proud smile that so strikingly reflected her undauntedness in face of the enemy.

Vo Thi Thang's smile pours scorn on all the unlawful, fascist trials conducted by the

U.S. aggressors and their henchmen in an attempt to intimidate the urban people of South Vietnam, more particularly the students and pupils. It is a forceful expression of the impassioned morale of the townsfolk of South Viet Nam in their present widespread uprisings. On the other hand, it brings into bolder relief the isolation of the U.S. and puppets on their last legs. Her smile, full of optimism and confidence, spells out again that "the South Vietnamese people are winning and will win completely."

VIETNAM

COURIER

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23rd ANNIVERSARY OF NAM BO RESISTANCE DAY

FOR INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM, ALL FOR OUR VICTORY OVER U.S. AGGRESSION!

(Excerpts from Nhan Dan's editorial, Sept. 23, 1968)

TWENTY three years ago, the gunfins of the Nam Bo (sa-Cochinchina) Resistance burst in the heart of Saigon-Cholon, touching off the sacred resistance of our people against the French colonialist aggressors and the U.S. interventionists.

Throughout the past 23 years the people in the Southern part of our country have been displaying their iron will to fight for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland and their boundless loyalty to the Independence oath made in the

Declaration of Independence read by President Ho Chi Minh at the Ba Dinh Square on the historic day of September and, 1945. For independence and freedom, the people of Nam Bo, then those of Southern Trung Bo (sa-Annam), rose up against the French invaders, using everything at their disposal—rifles, swords, spears, hoes and sticks—against the aggressors. Shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the country, the South Vietnamese people fought for nine long years, fearless of difficulties and sacrifices, building their forces in the course of the fighting and making a great contribution to the defeat of the French aggressors and the liberation of North Viet Nam. For independence and freedom, after several years of grim struggle in the dark days of the U.S.—Ngo Dinh Diem fascist regime,

the South Vietnamese people again stood up in the concerted uprisings of 1959-1960, switched over to the offensive against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, continuously developed their all-round people's war, foiling one after another all schemes and plans of the U.S., and have brought the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation to the present stage of general offensives and widespread uprisings. In their heroic fight, the South Vietnamese people have promoted to a high peak the noble traditions of the nation and acquired invaluable experiences in revolutionary action. As in the past war of resistance against the French colonialists, in the present fight against the U.S. aggressors, despite innumerable hardships they continue to fight with the same pride and

(Continued page 2)

'All Vietnamese Should Rise Up Together to Defend National Freedom and Independence'

States Saigon student Nguyen Van Chin at a puppet press conference

In an attempt to intimidate the patriotic movement of students and pupils, the Thieu-Ky clique produced at a news conference in Saigon on September 17 three patriotic students whom they had illegally arrested in Cho Lon twelve days ago on charges of keeping "Vietcong" documents, according to Saigon reports.

The students were aged 16, 23 and 24.

At the news conference, colonel Tran Van Hai, the puppet police chief, tried to misrepresent and discredit the patriotic movement of the students against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen.

Far from being cowed, the accused strongly denounced American aggression and reaffirmed in unequivocal terms

their patriotic stand.

Nguyen Van Chin, 24, student of the Social Sciences Faculty of Van Hanh University in Saigon, said: "I object to the presence of foreigners here and pressure from foreigners on our country. Viet Nam must regain her independence and sovereignty."

Nguyen Van Chin stressed, "The Americans are here for their own interests, not for those of Viet Nam. Viet Nam must settle their affairs themselves."

Asked if he thought "the North was invading the South", Nguyen Van Chin said: "I do not make any difference between the North and the South. When the country is in danger, all Vietnamese should rise up together to defend national freedom and independence."

Says Nguyen Van Tien at Resistance anniversary meeting

"Twenty-three years ago, following the proclamation of independence by President

He also highlighted the quick development and growth of the National Front for Liberation, authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people.

Under the leadership of the N.F.L., he said, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have rapidly grown up into a powerful army which is staging successful attacks on the U.S. and puppet troops in both the towns and countryside. The N.F.L.'s Political Program fully meets the needs and desires of the people of various strata and is showing the South Vietnamese people the way toward independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity and

Julks' 23rd

23rd session of the the peaceful reunification of Nam and gloss over the

perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam. It must withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, recognize the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and discuss with the Front matters related to South Viet Nam. First at all, it must immediately stop its bombing and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam so that other questions of interest to both parties can be discussed."

Speaking next, U.S. representative Averell Harriman, promised to justify the U.S. policy of aggression in Viet Nam.

For independence and freedom, all for the victory over the U.S. aggressors!

French, like all other subjects, Vietnamese became a foreign language for Vietnamese students - and a second language at that, ranking after English, German or Spanish. The Vietnamese feudal and bourgeois classes joined hands with the foreign *colons* to scorn the national lan-

President Ho Chi Minh has been playing a very great role in the building and developing of the national language. His written or spoken style is simple, clear, concise and accurate. He often criticized clumsy writing and speech and the unnecessary use of words borrowed from foreign languages. He always says: "We must safeguard and develop the Vietnamese language, an age-old and valuable national legacy. We must treasure its purity as we do our night. In no cases should we express in a foreign tongue anything which can be said in the Vietnamese language."

Learning in Vietnamese, the Vietnamese school-children not only find their patriotism further enhanced but also are able to quickly grasp and better and accurately understand scientific, technical, literary and artistic matters.

In higher education institutions, the situation is not so favourable as in the popular press. The triumph of the August 1945 Revolution, a number of top-flight intellectuals, and the influence of the Party still more or less influenced by bourgeois or imperialist concepts, have not done much to improve the use of Vietnamese language as a medium in higher education. The people regarded the Vietnamese language was rich in tonality and rhythm, but it was not so good at expressing the most sophisticated sentiments and painting the multifaceted life. However, many accusations were alleged that the Vietnamese language lacked words dealing with advanced scientific and technical life or was short of necessary words expressing abstract notions, and that scientific books in Vietnamese were still very inadequate and that Vietnamese dictionaries and manuals were still not available. They wanted to

2. **GUYEN THI THANH NGHI** Day by day, her class filled up.

Immediately after the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh led the people in the struggle against ignorance, while fighting against famine and foreign invasion. The Vietnamese language and its script were the first to be used as instruments to wipe out illiteracy and to raise the people's cultural standard. While after five years of independence the country had 100 million illiterates, only 5% of population were able to read and write, under the leadership of the Party it took only 10 years to wipe out illiteracy among the great majority of the people but also to raise the cultural standard of workers, collective farmers, and students to the first level (primary), second-level (elementary), third-level (secondary) and even university education level. The gradual raising of the people's cultural standard has helped driving forth the three revolutions now in full swing in North Vietnam: the revolution in production, the revolution in technical revolution; and the

[illegible]

Nghi also invented many new games to train the children to cope with emergencies. For instance, the "slope climber" helped the kids get in and out of the air-vad shelter quickly. "Bamboo-pole walks" helped them cross only the bamboo bridges over the construction site. The children of the class some faint-hearted children paled with fear whenever they heard the noise of the air-vad. To overcome this, a sent by them each time the planes flew past to quieten them and also to teach them how to distinguish between the sound of the air-vad and the sound of an out-going one. She also succeeded in encouraging them to keep watch and report any suspicious person or motor in the end, they got over their fright.

The mothers in village X, hold Nghi in high esteem. "She loves our little ones more than herself", they comment.

A black and white photograph of the St. Isaac's Cathedral in Leningrad. The cathedral's massive domes and ornate facade are the central focus. In the foreground, a large, dense crowd of people is visible, many wearing hats, suggesting a public gathering or event. The image has a grainy, historical quality.

A black and white photograph showing the ruins of a church with a large dome, heavily damaged by an earthquake. Debris is scattered in the foreground, and a person is visible near the entrance.

SINCE Johnson announced "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam on March 31 last, the U.S. has been concentrating air bombings and strafings on populated centres and agricultural areas from Thanh Hoa to the demilitarized zone. These attacks have increased 3 times and the amount of bombs and shells more than 7 times compared with the first three months of this year.

TO hurt food production most in hitting at water conservancy works, U.S. planes selected targets accord-

Besides, 12 canals, 13 canal networks and 3 networks of sea dykes were also assaulted.

dumped bombs on Truc Ly dyke, Quang Binh province, and salt water flowing in

seriously damaged the dyke. Then when the people were repairing it, the planes came in again and released 60 demolition and blast bombs, killing 3 and wounding 28.

All the 23 villages of Vinh Linh area, 122 out of 131 villages of

B-52 strategic bombers launched fierce attack against Vinh Linh, destroying large areas. In the past months, 670 B-52 carpet bombings have been carried out against 22 villages with 20,000 tons of bombs, killing

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29, they attacked
Minh Loc village,

... or picking potatoes in the Minh Le field (h) killing 6 and 6. On May 17, U.S. ... by reconnaissance ... , pounded Liem field (Vinh Linh), people who were

Military actions, hundreds of

regional forces and guerrillas—**have recorded glorious victories.** The main force units launched big attacks on the American fire support and combat bases and big units of the enemy moving along communication lines, wiping out whole battalions and companies of U.S. or puppet troops.

Excerpts from September 23, 1968
communiqué of Tay Ninh Front's P.L.A.F. Command

The enemy received repeated beating within a short period in the same place or on the same section of road. Thus within 5 days, the P.L.A.F. in Cha La fought 2 battles, wiping out two mixed battalions and one artillery battalion of the U.S. totalling 1,150 men, destroying 300 military vehicles and

4. The communiqué the mentioned the people's political actions which were closely co-ordinated with the P.L.A.F. military attack and were disastrous for the U.S.-puppets, seriously aggravating their passivity and considerably weakening the strength.

IN conclusion, the communiqué stressed:

"Our victories in Tay Ninh together with the fresh victories of our army and people throughout South Vietnam have created more favourable conditions for our army and people to dash forward and defeat the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen completely."

4

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Military Operations

MILITARY reports released by Gai Phong Press Agency during the past week brought out the major aspects of the war.

On the one hand, a big wave of attacks accompanied by popular uprisings swept the Provinces of Central Trung Bo, from Da Nang to Nha Trang, on the night of Sept. 21 to Sept. 22 and the following days. More than a hundred air bases, H.Q.'s, military positions and administrative centres were pounded, and came under infantry attacks, some of them taken by storm. Enemy losses amounted to thousands of killed or wounded.

On the other hand, in the Tay Ninh, Loc Ninh and Eastern Nam Bo areas, the P.L.A.F. continued to wipe out substantial enemy manpower and war materiel. More than 5,000 U.S. puppet and satellite (Thai) troops were killed, wounded or captured, according to reports reaching here. The same sources underscored the fact that 4 enemy battalions (including 4 American) and 6 companies (including 7 American) were put out of action in a 9-day period (from Sept. 13 to Sept. 21). Whole convoys of dozens of armoured cars were completely destroyed and big guns

destroyed by the dozens.

Thus, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces commemorated in a worthy manner the anniversary of the launching on Sept. 21, 1945 in Saigon of the first National Resistance Army of Vietnam. Resistance against the imperialist aggression by French colonialists backed and paid by Washington.

COASTAL PROVINCES OF CENTRAL TRUNG BO

In one night, the enemy simultaneously assaulted in Da Nang, Hoi An, Tam Ky, Quang Ngai, Nha Trang and 180 military bases including 7 airfields.

THIS new wave of offensives and uprisings erupted on the night of Sept. 21 to Sept. 22 in the coastal provinces of Central Trung Bo lying between the 14th and 16th parallels. P.L.A.F. infantry was involved in three-fourths of these actions, many of which were mounted in the two largest cities of this sector—Da Nang and Nha Trang—whose airfields including those at Vuoc Nam and Chu Lai were targets to violent attacks. The H.Q.'s of the puppet First Division and the American Division and

the U.S. 108th Brigade and many U.S. puppet and South Korean Regiment and Battalion C.P.'s suffered serious losses in men and materiel. At the Nuoc Man helicopter base, 50 ships and numerous warehouses were destroyed. At least 5 huge fuel depots burned for 24 hours at the Lien Chau air base which was turned into an immense sea of fire. On an auxiliary terrain near Chu Lai, fire and explosions raged a parking lot where 35 aircraft had been mustered for a planned operation next day.

The operations in the Dien Ban sector, South of Da Nang, the same Gai Phong Press Agency assessed, in the 5 days ending Sept. 17, cost the U.S. puppet forces 650 men put out of action. The puppet mobile reserve in the form of the grouping of Rangers lost one battalion destroyed (the 30th), on Sept. 17, and lost its 1st and 2nd companies destroyed (the 21st) and the third badly wounded (the 37th).

TAY NINH

In 5 days, 4 U.S. puppet battalions and 6 companies written off the muster roll, one battalion and 3 other companies decimated.

Gai Phong Press Agency reported 3 major combats on Sept. 10 by the Tay Ninh P.L.A.F. and heavy pounding of many enemy positions.

A T Ben San (6 km south of Ben Cai and 30 km East-southeast of Tay Ninh), they inflicted serious losses on a puppet battalion. The second battle took place in the afternoon at Hiep Thanh, 4 km north of Go Dau and 28 km south-south-east of Tay Ninh: after a 2-hour furious melee, the Liberation fighters put out of action a U.S. battalion, killed or wounded more than 350 GIs, destroyed 9 armoured cars and brought down a helicopter (same day). At 3 hours, the 3rd P.L.A.F. outfit was made against the U.S. entrenched position at Ben Cai: a U.S. mixed battalion was wiped out together with its C.P. 2, mechanized infantry company, an artillery company and an engineering company and more than 400 GIs put out of action, some two vehicles and six 107 mm heavy mortars destroyed. This was the 4th time in 10 days that the P.L.A.F. had chalked up great victories at Ben Cai since on Sept. 17 last another U.S. mixed battalion was destroyed.

On the night of Sept. 19 to Sept. 20 at 20 km West—Southwest of Tay Ninh, the Taping Robon post was taken and its one puppet company along with 100 GIs put out of action. Next day, a puppet marine battalion and several regional troop companies sent from the provinces were overwhelmed by a violent onset of the patriots who wiped out this battalion and one of the regional troop companies.

On Sept. 16 and 17, apart from the battles mentioned

in our last issue, three other successes of the P.L.A.F. were reported. At 240 hours, Sept. 16, the P.L.A.F. fell on a U.S. entrenched position, the most powerful blow being directed against Cao Xu, 40 km Southeast of Tay Ninh. After 70 minutes' fighting, they put out of action a U.S. artillery battalion and 2 infantry companies and decimated a Ranger company of the U.S. regional air mobile division: 450 GIs killed or wounded, 16 107 mm howitzers and 106 75 mm mortars and 12 vehicles destroyed and 2 choppers shot down.

On Sept. 16, an ambush on the Tay Ninh—Da Nang route, a U.S. company, 26 vehicles and 280 GIs were put out of action. On Sept. 17, the ambush on the same road took a toll of another U.S. company.

In all, in this province, in a 6-day period ending Sept. 21, 4 U.S. battalions and 5 companies and one puppet battalion and 2 companies were destroyed, another puppet battalion and 2 U.S. companies decimated. More than 3,000 adverse troops were put out of action, 250 vehicles destroyed and 10 choppers downed.

OTHER SECTORS OF NAM BO

— A convoy of 50 tanks and armoured cars, 10 trucks and drawing from Loc Ninh completely destroyed on Highway No. 18.

— A Thai battalion wiped out within 30 minutes near Loc Thanh.

— Heavy enemy losses in the Mekong Delta.

On Sept. 18, a 52-vehicle convoy withdrawing from Loc Ninh on the direction of Hoa Quan, capital of Binh Long province, ran into an ambush and was completely destroyed. The P.L.A.F. waited until the enemy came well inside the trap, to cut down the leading tanks and those in the rear guard. Immediately after that, the patriots charged the remaining vehicles panned down in 10 km, and destroyed them with grenades and plastics while 300 GIs of the Big Red One were quickly rendered harmless.

On the night of Sept. 20 to Sept. 21, they struck at a battalion of Thai mercenaries based at Binh Son airfield, near Long Thanh, some 30 km East of Saigon. After 30 minutes' fighting, the P.L.A.F. completely destroyed this battalion and made a big haul of war materiel.

In the Eastern provinces of Ban Bo (North, Northeast and Southeast of Saigon), the activity of the guerrillas and regional troops was very active in the first 3 weeks of September: at least 60 enemy soldiers were put out of action.

In the Mekong Delta, Ben Tre province has once again lived up to its reputation.

Within a week from Sept. 12 to Sept. 16 at least 1,200 enemy troops (mostly G.I.s) were put out of action and 21 war vessels burnt or sunk.

In My Tho province, between Sept. 14 and 20, attacks and popular uprisings flared up in the provincial capital and 4 urban centres and along Highway No. 4 linking Saigon to the Mekong Delta provinces. At least 240 adverse troops were put out of action in the week under review.

In Con Thau province, in the last 30 days of September, the P.L.A.F. put out of action more than 600 enemy soldiers during fighting in an urban city and important centres. They also destroyed or shot down 23 planes and helicopters and wrecked 26 military vehicles.

IN OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH VIET NAM

— Serious enemy losses in Tay Nguyen (Western Highlands).

— Sub-sector H.Q. taken in Binh Thuan province.

— Successes of the patriots southeast of Hae.

On Sept. 23 at 8 km South-southwest of Hue, G.P. Press Agency related, the P.L.A.F. wiped out a company of 100 U.S. 173rd airborne brigade and shot down 2 choppers, bringing to 3 the number of U.S. companies destroyed in this sector since Sept. 7.

45 km northeast of Buon Me Thuot, from Sept. 16 to 19 the people of Buoi Hu rose up and broke the enemy's grip, doing away with 140 agents of the enemy.

In Pleiku, one puppet company and 2 platoons were wiped out and 2 cannons and 6 vehicles destroyed between Sept. 13 and 21.

In the coastal fringe, about 20 km East-Northeast of Saigon, the Hoa Da sub-sector H.Q. in Binh Thuan province was taken on Sept. 18. The P.L.A.F. killed, wounded or captured more than 250 men there, including a captain.

In Phu Loc district, Southeast of Hue city, from Sept. 18 to Sept. 20, the patriots put out of action 300 adverse troops, and destroyed 85 military vehicles, eight 75 mm and 105 mm howitzers and some one hundred tent barracks.

TAY NINH FRONT

In five weeks, 15 battalions (including 14 American) and 42 companies (including 28 American) wiped out, 14,000 enemy were put out of action (including 10,000 GIs), 1,355 vehicles (835 armoured), 10 regional troops, 1 artillery destroyed, and 73 planes and helicopters shot down.

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Sad Plight of Thais and Other Mercenaries in South Viet Nam

ON the night of Sept. 20 to Sept. 21, the P.L.A.F. destroyed a whole battalion of Thai mercenaries near Loc Thanh, some 30 km East of Saigon and at the same distance from the important U.S. Binh Long to the Southeast. This was the first—and not the last—hard delivered to the "Black Panthers" and "Queen's Cobras" dispatched to South Viet Nam by Bangkok's shady dealers in exchange for some additional million dollars from Washington. These "volunteers" recruited clandestinely through the outcasts of a society depraved by American aid, these troops, "the worst soldiers in the world" as U.S. officers harshly term them, thus had a taste of the disaster already experienced by the South Korean, Filipino, Australian and New Zealand mercenaries.

The principle has been cynically established since the Truman time that the war must be fought with American arms and other goodies. Now Washington hopes to find in it a remedy for its chronic ailment, namely, the shortage of troops for chronic military forces. Dollars have been poured out to obtain mercenaries from satellite countries. These poor young people, not so well armed and equipped as the American troops, have been paid less than they have, have been sent in their place to the most dangerous spots.

However, the unfolding of the patriotic war has demonstrated that this policy is but a

palindrome whose effect is quite transient. The "Blue Dragons", "Royal Tigers" and "White Horzes" sent by Seoul have been trounced in the provinces of Central Trung Bo. Their most disastrous defeat so far occurred on Feb. 15, 1967 in Quang Thanh near the U.S. Chu Lai base, where a battalion of 400 "Dragons" was completely wiped out in its very stronghold. The Australian of the Royal Australian Regiment and the Kiwis who look like U.S. country cousins have sustained serious losses in the Bien Hoa—Ban Rin sectors east of Saigon. Their latest setback was on May 13, 1968 at So Hoi, northwest of Binh Long: one battalion and one company were put out of action, many were killed, and many Filipino mercenaries supplied by the Marcos clique were sent to Tay Ninh province have been decimated together with the U.S. "Tropic Lightning" division, which were on their shield against

The recent thrashing taken by Thai mercenaries is an additional count in the indictment of the politicians in the South who have cynically big a new impetus to the movement of protest unleashed by the oppressed masses of the people of Sydney, Wellington, Manila, Seoul or Bangkok against these governments which, disregarding national interest, only seek to fatten their bank accounts at the cost of the lives of their young, yellow-citizens thrown into Washington's service.